



Topic:	Sun Smart Policy
CECWA Policy:	No Corresponding Policy
Policy Area:	Enrichment
Date Released:	19 March 2014
Date For Review:	2018

1. Rationale

The Principal is obliged to enact policies and procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. As part of this duty of care the College aims to ensure a safe environment in terms of occupational health and safety, which includes preventing over exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health.

There are times when students and staff are engaged in outdoor activities for extended periods. Such times include sports days, playtime, physical education classes, camps and retreats. It is critical that students and staff follow accepted SunSmart procedures to avoid over exposure and potential health issues emerging in the future.

Note: This policy applies to all College events on and off site.

2. Principles

- Students and staff shall have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- A combination of sun protection measures shall be encouraged whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- The College shall work towards a safe College environment that provides shade for students, staff and the College community at appropriate times.
- The College shall encourage students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Families and new staff shall be informed of the College's Sun Smart Policy.

3. Procedures

- 3.1 Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert via the Sun Smart widget on the College website or at sunsmart.com.au or via the free Sun Smart App to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

- 3.2 The College shall encourage a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from **September to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- 3.3 A shade audit shall be conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade, particularly as the College grows in enrolments.
- 3.4 The College Board shall aim to ensure there are a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the College grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- 3.5 The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- 3.6 A 'no-hat/no-play' policy will be enforced in the Junior School at all recess and lunch breaks and all other outdoor activities. Middle and Senior School students are required to wear a hat when engaged in outdoor activities.
- 3.7 Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- 3.8 Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing will be restricted to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- 3.9 Students must provide their own SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and will be encouraged to apply it every two hours when engaged in extended activities outdoors.
- 3.10 As part of OHS UV risk controls staff will be encouraged to model the correct SunSmart procedures when the UV is 3 and:
 - wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
 - apply SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen available in the staff room and supplied at College excursions.
 - seek shade whenever possible.
- 3.11 Families and visitors will be encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor College activities.
- 3.12 Where appropriate, programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D shall be included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- 3.13 Where appropriate, SunSmart behaviour shall be reinforced and promoted to the whole College community through newsletters, College homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, College assemblies, student and teacher activities.